

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
OR110-08-01**

**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**PROJECT:** Road and Recreation Site Maintenance, FY 08      **DATE:** March 4, 2008  
**LOCATION:** Medford District

**DESCRIPTION:**      1) Annual, seasonal, monthly, weekly, and daily maintenance requirements of various facilities at the District's recreation sites.

2) The Medford District Office also manages 5000+ miles of logging roads. These roads are maintained by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintenance crews. Maintenance work consists of surface and right-of-way maintenance, culvert installation and replacement, drainage maintenance, road side brushing, maintenance of other structures, removal and repair of small (routine) slide, and fill-failures. This CE does **not** include maintenance and repair work that would result in stream channel disturbance or that would necessitate equipment operations off of roadways within stream channels. In conducting maintenance activities in areas of Port-Orford Cedar, the Medford District's Port-Orford Cedar management guidelines will be adhered to.

**Road Renovation Project Design Features:** Project design features (PDFs) are specific measures included in the proposed action to minimize impacts on the human environment. All of the following would be considered for the proposed actions.

Existing culverts excavated from the road prism would be disposed of in accordance with State and County regulations.

Excavated side slopes where culverts are permanently removed would be laid back to at least a 1 1/2:1 slope, to reduce erosion potential. The width of the bottom of the excavation would match the width of the bank-full stream channel.

Buried logs and other debris from culvert excavation would be placed in designated disposal areas.

Equipment refueling would be done where there is minimal chance that toxic materials could enter a stream. Equipment would not be stored in a stream channel overnight. Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines would be in proper working condition in order to minimize leakage into streams.

Heavy equipment would be washed off of federal lands before moving into the area, to remove soil and plant parts to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and disease into the project area.

Cutting vegetation on road fill slopes would be minimized in order to maintain slope stability and shading.

Work would be temporarily suspended if monitoring indicates that rain storms have saturated soils to the extent that there is potential for causing excessive stream sedimentation.

Mulching would be done immediately after excavation or ripping to reduce erosion.

As much loose soil as possible would be removed from the channel following culvert installation to reduce the amount that washes downstream during the first storm event of the wet season.

The normal work period for quarry operations would be June 15 to October 15 of the same year, to minimize potential for generating sediment that could enter streams. Measures would be taken to capture sediment before it

reaches streams if quarry work must be done outside the preferred work period.

Waste diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid and other hazardous materials would be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved landfill.

All soil disturbance associated with road drainage improvement and culvert installation/replacement would be within the existing road Rights-of-Way, with moderate to small excavations and fills.

Alder and other vegetation would be cut in ditch lines to ensure proper road drainage. Ditch lines would be pulled and cleared of obstructions where identified in the contract.

Energy dispersal pads would be placed at culvert outlets where necessary to reduce potential for soil erosion.

**Plan Conformance Review:** This project is subject to the *Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* and its *Record of Decision (ROD)* (BLM, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to insure the proposal is in conformance as required by 43 CFR 1610.5 and BLM MS 1617.3.

**Categorical Exclusion No.:** The proposed action is covered by Department categorical exclusion 1.7 (516 DM2, Appendix 4.1): Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g. limited size and magnitude or short-term effects. It is also covered by BLM categorical exclusion G-2 (516 DM 11.5, Appendix 4-2,): Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to existing roads

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to this proposed action:

- |    |  |                |     |     |    |
|----|--|----------------|-----|-----|----|
| 1. | Have significant adverse effect on public health or safety.  | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |
| 2. | Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |
| 3. | Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.  | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |
| 4. | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental effects.  | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |
| 5. | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |
| 6. | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  | ( )            | Yes | (X) | No |
|    | Initial: _____   | Remarks: _____ |     |     |    |

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. (Executive Order 13007).

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive order 13112).

( ) Yes (X) No

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the proposed action in accordance with the above criteria and have determined that the proposed action would not involve any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the actions do not meet any of the criteria for exception and is categorically excluded from future environmental review.

Reviewer/Preparer

*Jim McConnell*

Date

*3/4/2008*

Authorized Official

*Mary Smolce*

Date

*3/4/2008*

## Administrative Remedy

Notice of the forest management decision to be made on the action described is this categorical exclusion will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.